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Title: Need to protect and preserve the megalithic site Hirebenkal in Karnataka.

SHRI SHIVARAMA GOUDA (KOPPAL): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an archaeologically important site Hirebenkal, which is one of the large megalithic sites in Karnataka. Hirebenkal is situated in south east of my parliamentary constituency, Koppal district. There are hundreds of large stone monuments that were built about 5,000 years ago. There are 400 funerary monuments of granite structure. According to scholars megalithic monuments have also served a ritualistic purpose. This megalithic site covers nearly a stretch of one kilometre. The site is a picturesque mosaic of greens and browns. The site is having a very beautiful landscape with megalithic monuments. Hirebenkal also has evidence of ancient habitations. Archaeologists have unearthed rich cultural materials in this site. It also has rock art from neolithic to early history times. Rock shelters have lively paintings depicting dancing, hunting etc.

Hence, I request the union Government to issue necessary instructions to the concerned authority to take steps to protect and preserve the Hirebankal as an important megalithic site.